

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade
November 12, 2012
www.op97.org

Important Dates

November 15	Rough Draft - President Research Paper Due
November 16	Science unit test on energy and pollution
November 26	Final Draft - President Research Paper Due
November 27-28	Outdoor Ed Trip

Dear Families,

Last week, students received a flyer about a wonderful school project organized by Ms. Lori Krikau and Ms. Margaret O'Malley in our office. They are doing something new this year that we hope will become an annual tradition. They are asking the Holmes Community to become involved in helping the larger Oak Park/ River Forest Community through the Community of Congregations Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program. This year the program is serving 910 families, which represents 2,200 people.

Each grade level is sponsoring two families. Wish lists have been distributed to the teachers. We are handling this as a group project; you will not be asked to purchase an individual gift. The suggested donation is \$5 per student to cover the cost of gifts, or you can help with shopping, wrapping and sorting gifts. **Please submit donations in an envelope marked "gift basket" to me by Tuesday, November 20.**

Showing our students that they can make a difference is an invaluable life lesson. We're very excited about participating as a whole school this year. Please share in our enthusiasm by helping your child understand the importance of sharing and helping those in need.

Art - We are learning about Surrealism. We have looked at the artwork of Salvador Dali, Rene Magritte and photographer Jerry Uelsmann. Surrealism juxtaposes everyday, common things in unusual and surprising ways. We are creating surreal collage self-portraits. We began by tracing and cutting out our silhouette in profile and using old magazines and discarded encyclopedia's, we are creating a surreal collage.

Music - [Check out the website!](#) We are using recorders again in music this week. If your child cannot find theirs they may bring in 6 dollars cash or check to District 97 to purchase a new one. You may also click here to buy a [recorder online from the Holmes store](#). Please do not buy any recorder other than the ones being sold through school. If financial assistance is needed, email Mrs. Karia at akaria@op97.org. **NEW INFORMATION! If your child does not have their recorder in class they will be given a loaner recorder for the day. Please email Mrs. Karia if you want more information.**

Chorus- Chorus' first concert is at the Oak Park Arms Saturday, October 27th. Please go to the chorus website for the [lyrics to the songs we are singing as well as the permission slip](#) if you have not signed one for your child yet.

Spanish - The fifth graders will be working on an assignment that integrates both Spanish and art this week. They will be working on writing sentences that describe a project they just finished in art! Spanish blog: <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

Library - The Reading Olympics competition is quickly approaching: Tuesday, November 20. Students, please continue to read and have your books finished by that day! Please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>). Feel free to email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at mmaneck@op97.org with questions.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

We are continuing with unit 3 and the theme "Using Your Wits." This week, we will be focusing on comparing and contrasting as we read about different tales from around the world. The students will read nonfiction selections about how different countries pass stories throughout generations and how these stories help shape cultures.

Language Arts

This week in language arts we are working on improving voice in our writing. Voice is the writer coming through the words, the sense that a real person is speaking to us and cares about the message. It is the heart and soul of the writing. Students also will continue to revise their Memorable Moment paragraphs and publish a final draft this week. Students also are revising their science research papers in class with a focus on ideas and organization. Over the next few weeks, students will continue to edit these papers with a goal of producing a polished, quality product.

Math

This week, students will continue to compare fractions and use fraction sticks to add fractions. We will also use a fraction stick chart to help with ordering fractions and finding equivalent fractions. Students will then develop a multiplication rule and division rule for finding equivalent fractions. There will be a short quiz on Friday covering what we learned during the week.

Science

This week, students are calculating the total energy needs of our classroom. They are investigating the cost of installing the necessary equipment and the process of transferring to an alternative source. They will then write a feasibility study showing a return on investment. Our energy unit test will be this Friday. Students received a study guide in class and it is up on the wiki.

Social Studies

Big Question: None - Electoral Process and Three Branches Assessment on Thursday 11/15
Over the past two weeks we have focused on the executive branch of the government and the electoral process. This week students will get a brief overview of the legislative and judicial branches of our government. On Thursday, students will take an assessment testing their knowledge of the three branches of our government and the electoral process. On Friday, students will have an opportunity to revise their president research papers with their peers, and make corrections to them.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

Ms. Kraft
fkraft@op97.org

Ms. Manuel
mmanuel@op97.org

Ms. Peterson
apeterson@op97.org

Ms. Yigzaw
syigzaw@op97.org